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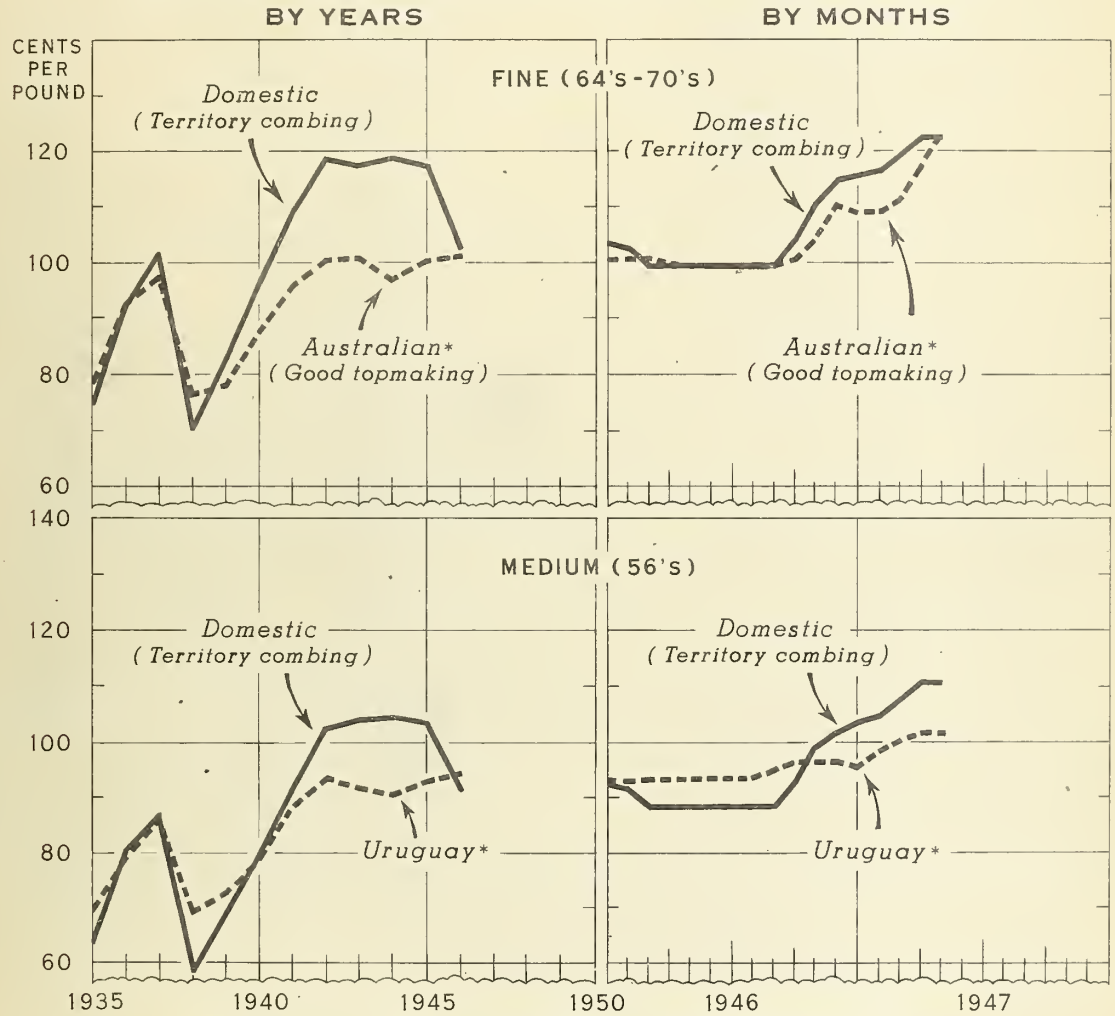
FOR RELEASE
JUNE 19, A. M.

THE Wool SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TWS - 2 BAE JUNE 1947

COMPARISON OF PRICES OF DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED FINE AND MEDIUM WOOLS, SCOURED BASIS, AT BOSTON, 1935-47



* IN BOND PRICE CONVERTED TO A SCOURED BASIS AND ADJUSTED FOR TARIFF AND DIFFERENCE IN PREPARATION OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN WOOLS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 46398 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

During the war domestic wool prices were maintained above the prices of imported wools by Government action. In late 1945 CCC selling prices were reduced and during most of 1946 large quantities of domestic wool were sold. The CCC had to raise its prices periodically beginning in October 1946 to keep from selling below parity. In May 1947 CCC selling prices were higher than prices of imported wools and for fine wools were higher than the price at which CCC had been purchasing wool from growers.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Item	Unit	1946 Feb.	1946 Mar.	1946 Apr.	1946 May	1947 Feb.	1947 Mar.	1947 Apr.	1947 May	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Price received by farmers	Cents	40.8	41.4	42.3	42.5	40.3	40.5	40.2	39.0	92
Parity price	Cents	32.8	32.9	33.1	33.9	40.4	41.5	42.1	41.9	124
Farm as percentage of parity	Percent	124	124	128	123	100	98	95	93	
Boston market price:										
Domestic wool										
Territory, scoured basis	Cents									
64s, 70s, 80s, staple	per	102.5	99.5	99.5	99.5	116.5	119.5	122.5	122.5	123
56s, combing	pound	91.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	104.5	107.5	110.5	110.5	125
Bright fleece, grease basis, 64s, 70s, 80s, delaine	"	41.5	40.0	40.0	40.0	48.0	49.0	50.0	50.0	125
56s, combing	"	48.0	46.5	46.5	46.5	54.5	55.5	56.5	56.5	122
Foreign wool, excl. duty										
Australian, clean basis										
64s, 70s, top making	"	75.5	75.5	74.7	74.5	85.0	87.2	93.9	99.0	133
Montevideo, grease basis 1/										
60s, 64s (merinos)	"	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	46.5	47.4	48.4	49.5	119
56s (ones)	"	42.3	42.5	42.5	42.5	46.5	47.4	48.0	48.5	114
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 2/	Cents	25.8	26.8	27.7	27.4	33.3	35.2	35.1	36.0	131
Rayon staple fiber	per									
Viscose 1-1/2 denier	pound	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	128
Acetate 5 denier	"	38.0	38.0	38.0	38.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	48.0	126
		1945 Dec.	1946 Jan.	1946 Feb.	1946 Mar.	1946 Dec.	1947 Jan.	1947 Feb.	1947 Mar.	
Mill consumption:										
Per week, during month 3/										
Grease basis										
Apparel wool, total	1,000 lb.	15,965	18,082	20,042	21,289	20,839	20,729	22,186	21,079	99
Domestic	"	1,600	2,107	2,598	3,113	6,704	6,779	7,397	6,987	224
Foreign (duty-paid)	"	14,365	15,975	17,444	18,176	14,135	13,950	14,789	14,092	78
Carpet wool (duty-free)	"	2,563	2,808	3,479	3,616	4,134	4,034	4,581	4,755	131
Scoured basis										
Apparel wool, total	"	9,597	10,799	11,927	12,606	11,664	11,550	12,236	11,556	92
Domestic	"	783	1,020	1,273	1,511	3,008	3,006	3,217	3,009	199
Foreign (duty-paid)	"	8,814	9,779	10,654	11,095	8,656	8,544	9,019	8,547	77
Carpet wool (duty-free)	"	1,859	2,020	2,479	2,588	2,938	2,850	3,272	3,416	132
Accumulated since Jan. 1 3/										
Grease basis										
Apparel wool, total	Mil. lb.	1,012.8	90.4	170.6	255.7	1,072.2	103.6	192.4	276.7	108
Domestic		251.8	10.5	20.9	33.4	240.6	33.9	63.5	91.4	274
Foreign (duty-paid)	" "	761.0	79.9	149.7	222.4	831.6	69.8	128.9	185.3	83
Carpet wool (duty-free)	" "	76.1	14.0	28.0	42.4	179.9	20.2	38.5	57.5	136
Scoured basis										
Apparel wool, total	" "	589.3	54.0	101.7	152.1	620.2	57.8	106.7	152.9	101
Domestic	" "	120.4	5.1	10.2	16.2	111.6	15.0	27.9	39.9	246
Foreign (duty-paid)	" "	468.9	48.9	91.5	135.9	508.6	42.7	78.8	113.0	83
Carpet wool (duty-free)	" "	55.9	10.1	20.0	30.4	128.1	14.2	27.3	41.0	135
Imports-actual weight 4/										
Apparel wool (duty-paid)	Mil. lb.	58.2	87.4	65.0	84.5	46.3	60.0	42.9	51.8	61
Carpet wool (duty-free)	" "	18.1	18.5	12.8	27.9	9.3	13.2	14.2	15.4	55
Accumulated since Jan. 1										
Apparel wool (duty-paid)	" "	675.4	87.4	152.4	236.9	811.8	60.0	102.9	154.7	65
Carpet wool (duty-free)	" "	131.8	18.5	31.3	59.2	241.7	13.2	27.4	42.8	72
Stocks, end of month										
Apparel wool, grease basis										
CCC stocks	" "	449.1	-	-	459.6	469.6	-	-	453.0	99
Mill and dealer stocks										
Domestic wool	" "	69.4	-	-	77.4	167.0	-	-	103.3	131
Foreign wool	" "	279.4	-	-	297.4	256.3	-	-	251.0	84
Total apparel wool	" "	797.9	-	-	834.4	892.9	-	-	807.3	97
Carpet wool, grease basis	" "	110.0	-	-	96.5	141.0	-	-	129.3	134
Wool fabric production:										
Accumulated since Jan. 1										
Mens wear	Million	204.2	-	-	53.7	228.1	-	-	61.1	114
Womens & children wear	Linear	141.4	-	-	56.3	234.9	-	-	49.3	88
Other apparel fabrics	yards	55.8	-	-	15.7	61.2	-	-	15.3	97
Total apparel fabrics	"	401.4	-	-	125.7	524.2	-	-	125.7	100
Blankets	"	80.2	-	-	12.3	48.5	-	-	11.1	90
Other non apparel fabrics	"	11.8	-	-	7.8	31.0	-	-	7.5	96
All woven fabrics	"	493.4	-	-	145.8	603.7	-	-	144.3	99

1/ Boston Commercial Bulletin Quotations. 2/ Average at 10 markets. 3/ The first month of each quarter is a 5 week period, the other months are 4 week periods. 4/ Imports for consumption.
Compiled from official sources.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, June 11, 1947

SUMMARY

Mills consumed apparel wool at an annual rate of 1107 million pounds (grease basis) during the first quarter of 1947, about the same as the record rate for 1946. However it appears that a moderate decline is now occurring and consumption for the year is expected to be in the neighborhood of only 800-900 million pounds.

Wool consumption in the worsted industry during February and March was a record. Because of the strong demand for worsteds it appears likely that it will continue high most of this year. On the other hand, consumption in mills manufacturing woolens was at a lower rate in March than at any time since 1941 except for a brief period in the fall of 1945. The supply of blankets and woolens appears to be plentiful. Woolen mills may use less wool in April-June than in January-March.

In the second quarter of 1947, imports of apparel wool may be about the same as in the first three months when they were at a lower rate than in most of 1946. Further decline in imports is expected in the last half of this year.

The carry-over of apparel wool in the United States on April 1 was only moderately smaller than the record of a year earlier. Stocks will increase seasonally this summer and fall and carry-over next April 1 may be only moderately less than on the same date this year.

The Government price support program for domestic wools ended April 15. Average prices received by farmers for wool were 3.5 cents lower in May than a year earlier. Reductions up to 4 cents were general in the 11 Western States and Texas but prices in Ohio were the same as last year.

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Wool prices at Boston continued to rise during early 1947. Selling prices of the Commodity Credit Corporation however, have remained unchanged since the end of March as there was little change in the wool parity price in April and May. Prices of imported wool rose rapidly during March, April, and May as prices continued to advance in foreign markets. Prices of fine Australian good top-making wools held in bond increased 16 percent during this period.

Foreign trade in wool from the British Dominions this year has exceeded the estimated current production. In South America, wool exports through March were about at pre-war levels. It is estimated that world stocks will be 4.5 billion pounds by July 1, 1947 compared to 5.0 billion pounds a year earlier. This reduction most of which is expected to occur in the holdings of the United Kingdom-Dominion Wool Disposal Limited, will result primarily from an increase in world consumption. Little decline in world production is indicated in 1946-47.

(For release June 19, a. m.)

DOMESTIC SITUATION

Wool Production Conditions Improve

Sheep came through the winter in good condition and losses in western areas were light. More favorable weather during April overcame setbacks earlier in the spring and the condition of sheep on May 1 was reported to be better than a year ago and about normal for this time of the year. The improvement during April was particularly noticeable in Texas. Because of cold weather the growth of range grass had been delayed. During April, however, the weather was more moderate, and soil moisture generally ample. As a result, range conditions on May 1 were about average and were better than a year earlier.

Federally inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs totaled 5.4 million head during the first 4 months of 1947, 27 percent less than a year earlier. The reduction reflects a return to a more nearly normal seasonal distribution of lamb marketings and the discontinuance of the heavy liquidation of breeding sheep which has been underway since the summer of 1942. Last year lamb marketings were unusually large in the first quarter because of the high rate of subsidy paid to producers at that time. The biggest reduction was in older sheep (mostly ewes) slaughter of which was down 44 percent. Since conditions are more favorable in range areas, the number of stock sheep will not be reduced as much this year as last if sheep and lamb slaughter for the rest of this year remains much below a year ago. Shorn wool production in 1948 may be only moderately below the 255 million pound production forecast for this year.

Farm Prices Weaken

The United States average price received by farmers for wool in May was 39.0 cents, 3.5 cents lower than the revised price for a year earlier. The decline was largest in the midwest. In the 11 Western States and Texas, declines up to 4 cents were general. Prices in Ohio were the same as last year.

The CCC support program for domestic wools ended on April 15. Congress has been considering legislation directing the CCC to continue to purchase 1947 and 1948 clip wools. The uncertainty termination or suspension of the support program did not greatly affect the marketing of wool during April but resulted in some confusion in May. The new clip has been later in coming to market this year as cold weather delayed shearing. Many dealers and secondary handlers have either stopped purchasing wool or are buying at reduced prices. On the other hand, some of the better qualities of wool, particularly fine grades, have been marketed directly to mills at prices at least as favorable as those recently offered by the CCC.

Wool Prices Higher in Domestic Markets

CCC selling prices for domestic wool were increased again at the end of March because of the continued rise of the parity index--the index of prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes. Since this index rose only one point in April and then declined in May, no further change in CCC wool price schedules was necessary. After the March increase, CCC selling prices were about as high as they had been before the first downward adjustment was made in November 1945. For the longer staple fine and medium grades, they were higher than the purchase prices recently paid to producers. Graded strictly staple territory wools 64's and finer were offered at $1.23 on March 29 compared to $1.20 a month earlier and to $1.21, the sale price prior to November 27, 1945 and the purchase price recently paid to producers. Even with the advance in price, there has been a fair volume of sales of CCC wools in recent months. Most sales have been of small lots used to piece out orders but large lots of fine and 1/2 blood wools have been sold in some cases. CCC prices on fine grades are about the same as the replacement prices of imported wools.

Prices of imported wools rose rapidly during March, April and May as prices continued to advance in foreign markets. Fine Australian good top-making wool, quoted at 85 cents (in bond) for the week ending March 7 was 99 cents for the week ending May 31, a rise of 16 percent. Price increases for medium wools were more moderate. At the end of May, prices of fine imported wools, adjusted for tariff and differences in preparation, appeared to be as high or higher than the recent CCC support purchase price for comparable domestic wools.

Mill Consumption Still near Peak Level

Mill consumption was at an annual rate of 1106 million pounds (grease basis) during the first quarter of 1947, only 1 percent (scoured basis) below the record 1946 level and 7 percent above the extremely high wartime average (1941-45). Consumption in worsted mills in February and March was at the highest rate for any month on record and appears likely to stay near this peak during the second quarter because of strong demand for worsteds. Consumption in woolen mills in March was at a lower rate than at any time since 1941 except for a brief period in the fall of 1945 when mills were re-converting to civilian production. However, it was still about 2 1/2 times as large as in 1935-39. It now appears that the supply of woolens and blankets generally is adequate and that further decline from high wartime rates of production may take place. As a result, total mill consumption may decline moderately during the second quarter. For 1947 as a whole, consumption is expected to be in the neighborhood of 800-900 million pounds.

Consumption of domestic wool during the first quarter was at an annual rate of 366 million pounds (grease basis) compared to 241 million pounds in all of 1946. Consumption of domestic wool is now at a higher rate than is domestic production (currently forecast at 315 million pounds for 1947). Private holdings of domestic wool (exclusive of the new clip) were small at the end of March 1947. If mills maintain or increase their use of domestic wools during the rest of 1947, it is likely that stocks in the hands of the CCC will be reduced.

Mills Reduce Output

During the first quarter of 1947, production in the wool textile industry declined some from the record rate reached during the preceding year. Total production of woven fabrics in the first quarter of 1947 was estimated at 144.3 million linear yards a decline of 12.6 million yards from the last 3 months of 1946 and 6.6 million yards below the quarterly average for all of 1946. The decline from the fourth quarter of 1946 was due entirely to a lower production of women's and children's-wear fabrics and of blankets. There was also an 18 percent decline in production of wool yarns used in the knit goods industry in the first quarter of 1947, mostly because of a drop in the production of woolen knitting yarns.

The reduction in the wool textile industry was confined entirely to the woolen system where there was a 9 percent drop in woolen yarn output. The production of worsted yarns (weaving and knitting) during the first quarter was as high as in the previous quarter. A continuation of these trends is expected through most of 1947 with most of the decline in mill consumption occuring in the woolen section of the industry.

In the retail wool field the first quarter was marked generally by a more than seasonal decrease in numbers of items sold and a rise in inventories. Demand for men's clothing continued strong. While there was considerable increase in inventories they still were a little below normal in relation to sales at the end of March 1947. However, this was not the case for women's coats and suits and boys' wear. Sales declined, and inventories in relation to sales at the end of the period were a little higher than normal for this season. Sales of wool apparel at retail are usually seasonally small during the summer. Because of the size of retail inventories it appears that the replacement demand by retailers will not be large until the opening of the fall season.

Domestic Apparel Wool Stocks Very High but Below A Year Ago

Domestic stocks of apparel wool, exclusive of new clip wool, totaled 807 million pounds (grease basis) at the end of March 1947, 27 million pounds less than a year earlier but higher than for any other year on record. With the new clip coming to market, they would be sufficient for mills to operate at present capacity throughout 1947. A large portion of these stocks was owned by the CCC. Privately owned stocks totaled 354 million pounds (grease basis) at the end of March. Although private stocks of wool were very large in total they were not large in relation to the current rate of mill consumption.

In recent months, there was a decline in private holdings of domestic wool. The decline may have been partly seasonal, but also is due to advancing domestic wool prices. Total stocks are expected to increase seasonally this summer and fall. Since a lower rate of mill consumption is in prospect, it does not appear likely tha carryover next April 1, will be much smaller than on April 1, 1947 even if there is some reduction in imports during the rest of 1947.

Table 1. - April 1 carry-over of apparel wool, (grease basis) and a comparision of stocks with mill consumption (scoured basis) United States, 1935-39 average and 1940-47 1/

Year	Owned by dealers and mills		Owned by U. S. Government		Total reported	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks 2/	
	Domestic wool	Foreign wool	CCC (Domestic)	DSC (Foreign)		Privately owned	Total
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	Number	Number
1935-39 Average	162,717	3/49,210			3/211,927	20.8	20.8
1940	98,409	68,618			167,027	18.3	18.3
1941	87,147	112,169			199,316	12.9	12.9
1942	140,951	4/170,244		198,868	510,063	16.0	26.5
1943	122,594	134,704		295,244	552,542	12.2	26.3
1944	75,676	209,934	185,500	275,682	746,792	14.2	34.6
1945	74,051	246,928	291,800	66,832	679,161	14.7	27.2
1946	77,373	297,396	459,600	-	834,369	19.3	36.0
1947	103,279	250,986	453,000	-	807,265	17.8	34.4

1/ Data are for reporting dates nearest April 1. Dates of reports of range from March 26 to April 4.
2/ Stocks compared with January-March mill consumption, both on a scoured basis.
3/ Includes a small quantity of wool afloat.
4/ Excludes 36's, 40's foreign wool.
Compiled from reports of the Bureau of Census, Commodity Credit Corporation, and information furnished by Defense Supplies Corporation.

Imports of Apparel Wool Continue Adequate

During the first quarter of 1947 imports of apparel wool (duitable) for consumption amounted to 155 million pounds (actual weight), the same as during the fourth quarter of 1946. Imports during the first quarter was much below the yearly rate for 1946, and for 1941-45, when stocks were being built up and consumption of domestic wool was declining. However, imports about equaled consumption of foreign wools by mills, Most of the recent arrivals of apparel wool have been of finer grades. Over half of all imports into 3 ports for the first five months of this year were from Australia and 12 percent came from South Africa. Imports from Argentina, Uruguay and New Zealand accounted for practically all of the remaining 37 percent.

Wool imports for consumption during the second quarter of this year may be about the same as in the first quarter. General imports into three ports showed considerable increase over the first quarter during April and early May. However, imports for consumption during the fourth quarter of 1946 and the first quarter of 1947 were maintained by a net withdrawal of wool from bonded warehouses. Some reversal of this trend has probably occurred during the second quarter as the season in many foreign markets is nearing its close, and an additional carry-over will be wanted to tide mills over till the new clip is offered for sale. Because wool supplies are generally adequate and some reduction in mill consumption is expected, further decline from previous high levels in imports for consumption appear to be in prospect for the second half of 1947.

Table 2.- Average price per pound (clean basis) for specified grades of wool at the London auctions, 1934-38 and 1946-47.

Season beginning July 1	64/70's good medium fleeces	60/64's good medium fleeces	56's fine crossbred fleeces	50's fine crossbred fleeces	46's crossbred fleeces
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1934	48	44	35	30	19
1935	61	57	40	30	23
1936	72	66	50	42	38
1937	62	55	44	37	35
1938	48	44	35	30	27
1934-38 Av.	58	53	41	34	28
1946					
Sept. 13	76	71	64	50	47
Sept. 27	82	74	64	49	44
Nov. 29	82	77	63	50	42
Dec. 13	84	79	62	52	42
Feb. 6	88	84	65	53	44
Feb. 20	89	84	65	53	44
April 17	101	96	64	54	44
May 1	107	103	68	55	44

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. 1934-38 seasonal averages are based on opening and closing quotations for each series of London sales, converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Foreign Situation

Prices Continue to Rise In Most Foreign Markets

Apparel wool prices continued to rise during early 1947 in most foreign markets. The rise was greatest in the fine grades with medium wool prices generally firm to slightly higher. Prices of coarser wool were lower in many cases. At London merino wools (60s and finer) advanced 23-24 cents (clean basis) during the first four months of this year. Prices of these wools on May 1 were almost twice as large as those of prewar. Price advances for medium and coarsed wools were more moderate, Prices of fine crossbred fleeces (56's) advancing but 8 cents and coarser grades 2 - 3 cents.

Prices in Australia and South Africa through most of March appeared to follow a somewhat similar pattern. In Sydney, the best grade greasy merino fleece wools on March 21, were quoted at 51.4 cents per pound (grease basis) little changed from a month earlier but higher than on December 6 when they were quoted at 44.8 cents. Prices of average grade merino fleeces increased 5 cents a pound from December through February but also remained unchanged in weeks following, and on March 21 were 39.4 cents. In Pretoria South Africa, prices of average and inferior grades at the end of February were a little lower than in early December but increased in March and April. Prices of the better grade spinners types advanced throughout the period. Combing types, which were quoted at 34.7 cents per grease pound on December 19, decline to 33.9 cents at the end of February but were 37.9 cents on April 17. Ten to 12 months spinners wools were priced at 37.9 cents on December 19, 39.8 cents on February 27 and 42.1 cents on April 17.

In South America, where production tends to be of coarser grades, few prices advanced. In Buenos Aires, prices of most grades of wool were lower in April than they had been in December and January, although there was a moderate increase in the price of fine merinos. Coarse crossbreds have been accumulating recently in that market because prices have been higher than United States buyers have been willing to pay. The Government of Argentina recently has been extending loans of 75-85 percent of market value for the coarse grades of wool (Argentine grades 4, 5 and 6) which have accumulated on farms and in warehouses. The loans are repayable in six months but an optional renewal for an additional six months is permitted. There was some improvement in the Uruguayan wool market in March and April. Uruguayan wool has been slow coming to market this season and sales for the first seven months have been smaller than a year earlier. Super fine cross-breds in late April were bringing about 36 cents per pound compared to about 35 cents in late December.

Table 3.- Estimated Sales of British Southern Dominion Wools, July 1946-June 1947 compared to July 1945-June 1946, and Joint Organization stocks on hand June 30, 1946 and 1947

Item	Australian wool	New Zealand wool	South African wool	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb
Sales 1945-46 1/	1,589	464	523	2,576
Sales 1946-47				
1946 production 2/	970	350	195	1,515
Less Purchases by J.O. July 1946-Jan. 1947 1/	7	4	4	15
sold from J.O. stocks to Jan. 31, 1947 1/	109	107	46	262
Programmed sales from J. O. stocks (Feb-June) 1/	138	24	40	202
Est. Sales 1946-47 3/	1,210	477	277	1,964
J. O. Stocks June 30, 1946 1/	1,175	485	177	1,837
Est. J. O. Stocks June 30. 1947 1/ 3/	935	358	95	1,388

1/ Based on published reports of the U. K. Dominion Wool Desposal limited (J.O.). Bales converted to pounds using 310 pounds per bale for Australia and South Africa and 340 pounds for New Zealand. The sales reported for 1945-46 include both sales of current clips and sales from stocks. They are preliminary data published by J. O. in August 1946. Revised totals are not available. 2/ Assuming the entire production is either sold or taken over by the Joint Organization. Announced scheduled offering of new clip wool approximate total estimated production. 3/ No adjustment made for new clip wool not offered for sale this year or for purchases by the J. O. February through June 1947.

Foreign Trade In Wool Still Very Large

While it appears that sales of wool in international markets during 1946-47 will be much smaller than during 1945-46, they probably will exceed production in most cases and some reduction in stocks will result. Sales of British Southern Dominion wools during 1946-47 are estimated to approximate 2.0 billion pounds compared to 2.6 billion last year and an estimated production for sale during 1946-47 of 1.5 billion pounds. During 1945-46, unusually large sales of accumulated stocks were made by the Joint Organization to the United States buyers and large sales were made to Continental European countries which were rebuilding stocks in trade channels that had been depleted during the war. Sales to Continental Europe continued large during 1946-47. Sales to the United States this year have dropped sharply.

Sales of South American wool also have been smaller during 1946-47. Combined exports from Argentina and Uruguay for the first half of this season averaged 38 percent below a year ago but were about the same as in 1934-38. A large part of South American wool exports mostly finer types, is going to Europe although the volume is probably not yet up to prewar. Shipments to the United Kingdom have remained below prewar since 1939.

Current data on wool exports from foreign countries indicate the extent of the recent reduction in purchases of foreign wool by the United States. During the first few months of 1946-47, a considerable part of the exports were delayed shipments of wool which had been sold in 1945-46. Even so, exports of four of the principal wool producing countries to the United States for the current season through March 1947 were 36 percent less than for the same period of 1945-46. Exports from Australia in recent months were reduced relatively little, possibly because their shipments had been delayed more in the latter part of the 1945-46 season than those from other countries. The finer types of wool have made up most of the exports to the United States, from Australia and South Africa. Exports to the United States from Uruguay have been more concentrated in medium grades and from Argentina in coarser grades, (40's and under)

Table 4.-Wool exports from 5 Southern Hemisphere countries, actual weight, average 1934-38, annual 1939-46

Year or period 1/	Australia		New Zealand		Union of South Africa		Argentina		Uruguay		Total	
	To U.S.	Total	To U.S.	Total	To U.S.	Total	To U.S.	Total	To U.S.	Total	To U.S.	To all countries
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
Average 1934-38	26	827	15	274	2	231	53	305	15	115	111	1,752
1939	17	862	14	277	37	181	137	282	37	106	242	1,708
1940	278	537	3	199	29	60	349	418	120	145	779	1,359
1941	558	816	14	205	199	288	220	243	43	58	1,034	1,610
1942	348	557	15	209	38	100	153	178	98	105	652	1,149
1943	262	509	27	244	20	52	199	225	100	110	608	1,140
1944	260	562	33	123	2/ 21	88	199	266	174	204	687	1,243
1945	321	806	67	296	2/129	388	356	516	88	145	961	2,151
Beginning of season to Mar 31												
1945-46	249	586	53	199	2/ 96	3/241	225	277	52	72	675	1,375
1946-47	240	825	4/	4/	2/ 51	4/	82	159	24	56		

1/ Year beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, October 1 in Argentina, Uruguay.
2/ Declared exports to the United States.
3/ Estimated on the basis of changes in stocks and receipts at ports.
4/ Not available.
Compiled by OFAR and BAE from official and reliable commercial sources.

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World Apparel Wool Stocks To Be Reduced

The world wool situation was reviewed by an International Wool Study Group which met at London on March 31. Representatives of 24 nations were present, including all major producing and consuming countries and observers from interested international organizations. The group reported that they expected world stocks July 1, 1947 to total 4.5 billion pounds compared to 5.0 billion pounds a year earlier. They expected almost all of the decline in stocks to come from Government holdings, commercial holdings remaining about unchanged. Government holdings have been concentrated in CCC and Joint Organization hands. The Joint Organization estimates that its stocks will be reduced about 450 million pounds by July 1, 1947 (see table 3). CCC stocks had declined little through April 1, 1947 (see table 1). Increased consumption of apparel wool is expected to account for most of the reduction in stocks since little reduction in world production of apparel wool is indicated for this season. In 1946-47 apparel wool consumption may reach 3.4 billion pounds compared to about 3.0 billion pounds of 1945-46 and for the 1934-38 average. The larger consumption is due mostly to rapid progress in rehabilitating the wool textile industry in Western Europe, particularly in France and Belgium, though there has been some increase in wool consumption in the United States and in the United Kingdom compared with 1945-46.

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